## Message Text

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**ACTION AID-59** 

INFO OCT-01 NEA-14 ISO-00 AGR-20 EB-11 COME-00 TRSE-00

IGA-02 SWF-02 CIAE-00 INR-11 NSAE-00 RSC-01 DRC-01

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R 131025Z SEP 74 FM AMEMBASSY DACCA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4258

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E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: EAID, BG

SUBJECT: FOOD SUPPLY SITUATION

REF: A. DACCA 3361 B. STATE 189752

DURING EMBOFF'S CALL SEPTEMBER 13 ON BDG FOOD SECRETARY A.M. KHAN, SECRETARY VOLUNTEERED FOLLOWING UPDATED SUMMARY OF FOOD DEVELOPMENTS.

- 1. OF ESTIMATED PRE-FLOOD RATION SHOP FOOD REQUIREMENT OF 1.7 MILLION TONS IN 1974-75, BDG HAS SO FAR "SECURED" 900,000 TONS. THIS IS COMPOSED 700,000 OF COMMERCIALLY AND CONCESSIONALLY FINANCED IMPORTS (UNDIFFERENKAATED, BUT INCLUDING 100,000 TONS 1ST QUARTER PL 480 WHEAT), AND 200,000 TONS OF ANTICIPATED LOCAL PROCUCMMENT (A FIGURZZKHAN ADMITTED IS OPTIMISTIC). THUS THE PRZPAFLOOD GAP IS 800,000 TONS PLUS ANY SHORTFALL IN LOCAL PROCUREMENT GOAL.
- 2. BDG ESTIMATE OF CROPS DESTROYED BY FLOOD STILL STANDS AT 1.1 MILLION TONS. HOWEVER, THROUGH REDUCTION OF HOPED-FOR CONTINGENCY RESERVE, THIS FIGURE CAN BE REDUCED TO 750,000 TONS. COUNTING FLOOD RELATED AID

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OF ROUGHLY 100,000 TONS FROM OTHER DONORS, 50,000 TONS

OF RICE FROM US AND HOPED FOR ADDITIONAL 100,000 TONS

OF WHEAT FROM UFFN REMAINING FLOOJ-RELATED REQUIREMENT

STADNS AT 500,000 TONS.

3. IN ADDITION TO HIS INABILITY TO SEE WHERE COMBINED GAP OF AT LEAST 1.3 MILLION TONS OUTLINED ABOVE WILL CONE FROM, KHAN IS PARTICULARLY WORRIED ABOUT OCTOBER-NOVEMBER PERIOD. ONLY FIRM ARRIVAL SCHEDULED IN SEPTEMBER IS 20,000 TONS OF COMMERCIAL WHEAT FROM AUSTRALIA. (FYI - OUR LATEST CALCULATION IS 28,000 TONS. END FYI) KHAN ASSERTED THAT CURRENT BDG STOCKS FOR RATION SYSTEM WILL NOT LAST MUCH BEYOND THE END OF SEPTEMBER. THUS KHAN RENEWED REQUEST THAT USG ATTEMPT TO DIVERT TO BANGLADESH GRAIN DESTINED ELSEWHERE BUT ALREADY ON HIGH SEAS. EMBOFFS AGREED TO TRANSMIT THIS REQUEST TO WASHINGTON, BUT HELD OUT NO HOPE THAT IT COULD BE WORKED OUT, CITING LEGAL AND OTHER DIFFICULITIES IN DIVERTING COMMERCIAL WHEAT (REF B), ABSENCE OF PL 480 AGREEMENT WITH NEIGHBORING NATION, ETC.

4. AT CONCLUSION OF CALL, KHAN READ EMBOFFS CLASSIFIED REPORT FROM DEPUTY COMMISSIONER OF PATUAKHALI DISTRICT INDICATING THAT 90 PERCENT OF THE PEOPLE HAVE NO FOOD OF THEIR OWN AND CANNOT AFFORD TO PAY GOING MARKET PRICE FOR RICE OF 200 TAKA PER MAUND. REPORT CONCLUDES THAT UNLESS SITUATION IS REMEDIED, MANY WILL DIE OF STARVATION. BOSTER

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## Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994 Channel Indicators: n/a

**Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED** 

Concepts: DISASTER RELIEF, ECONOMIC CONDITIONS, DATA, FLOODS, FOOD ASSISTANCE

Control Number: n/a Copy: SINGLE Draft Date: 13 SEP 1974 Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960 Decaption Note: Disposition Action: RELEASED Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: kelleyw0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974DACCA04132

Document Number: 1974DACCA04132 Document Source: CORE Document Unique ID: 00

Drafter: n/a Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: N/A Errors: N/A

Film Number: D740258-0506

From: DACCA

Handling Restrictions: n/a

Image Path:

Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740949/aaaabpdo.tel Line Count: 93

Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM

Office: ACTION AID

Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Original Handling Restrictions: n/a Original Previous Classification: n/a Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 2

Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE Previous Classification: Limited Official C Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a Reference: A. DACCA 3361 B. STATE 189752 Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED Review Authority: kelleyw0

Review Comment: n/a Review Content Flags: Review Date: 14 AUG 2002

**Review Event:** 

Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <14-Aug-2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <06 MAR 2003 by kelleyw0>

**Review Markings:** 

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:** Review Referrals: n/a Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Subject: FOOD SUPPLY SITUATION

TAGS: EAID, SWEL, BG

To: STATE

Type: TE

Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005